

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminary to the issuance of an Office Action in the present application and in response to the Official Action of February 13, 2003.

Record is also made of an interview between applicant's representative and the Examiner which took place on March 27, 2003. The Examiner is thanked for his help and assistance as well as for the courtesies extended to Counsel at that time. During the course of the interview, the present application was extensively discussed in light of the final rejection of claims 1 to 3 and 5-14. More specifically, applicant's representative pointed out that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the disposition of the permanent magnets upon the outer surface of rotor plate pack and the relationship between the depth of the pole gaps and the width of the air gap, as defined between the outer rotor surface and the confronting surface of the stator. The Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claims 1 and 10, as now on file, appears to be distinguishable over the prior art of record; however, an updated search is needed to make a final determination.

In addition, applicant's representative further pointed out that that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the relationship between the depth of the pole gaps and the thickness (i.e. radial dimension) of the permanent magnets.

As a result of the interview, applicant now submits amendments to claims 1 and 10, which are drawn up in accordance with the agreement at the interview. In addition, applicant presents new claims 15 and 16, which are made dependent on

claims 1 and 10, respectively, to set forth the relationship between the depth of the pole gaps and the thickness of the permanent magnets.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is considered patentably differentiated over the prior art of record and believed to be in immediate conditions for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are thus respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Henry M. Feiereisen
Agent for Applicant
Reg. No. 31,084

Date: April 7, 2003
350 Fifth Avenue
Suite 3220
New York, N.Y. 10118
(212) 244-5500
HMF:af

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800